



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

November 24, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that, effective January 1, 2009, the HIV/AIDS Bureau and the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control will merge into a single entity, the Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response, and Services. This merger unites the superb epidemiologic, medical, and scientific expertise of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control with the excellent administrative, programmatic, policy, and advocacy capacities of the HIV/AIDS Bureau. It reflects a growing trend toward consolidated disease surveillance and epidemiologic response at the federal level, and leverages the strengths of both Bureaus to gain efficiencies of scale and improved coordination to manage overlapping long-term epidemics and emergent disease outbreaks affecting the residents and communities of the Commonwealth.

Initial managerial changes include the assignment of Kevin Cranston, current Director of the HIV/AIDS Bureau, to the role of Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response, and Services, and of Dr. Alfred DeMaria to the role of Medical Director of the new Bureau. Kevin will oversee the administrative, programmatic, fiscal, policy, and operational management of the Bureau, and Al will oversee its epidemiologic, medical, and scientific functions. The HIV/AIDS Bureau will retain a distinct identity as the Office of HIV/AIDS in the new Bureau. The level of work on HIV/AIDS and its importance to the Department will not be diminished by the organizational change. All of the current divisions and programs in the current Bureau of Communicable Disease Control will retain their names, structures, and primary functions. Additional management-level role clarifications will be forthcoming shortly.

As we aim through this consolidation to maximize the statewide response to infectious diseases in the Commonwealth, we also intend to maintain the high quality of community service for which both Bureaus are well known and well regarded. You should continue to work and communicate with the program managers, contract managers, and other front-line staff upon whom you currently rely. We commit to an open and transparent process of examining opportunities for cross-program cooperation as we bring together the expertise of the employees of both Bureaus. Please feel free to share with me any questions or concerns that this merger raises for you as it proceeds in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Auerbach".

John Auerbach
Commissioner